MR. K. K. KARTHA: The question is about the opening of more sluices after 1120. These have been opened under the 'Grow More Food Campaign Scheme.'

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: The question under part (*a*) refers to the year 1100 and not 1120.

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The question concerns the year 1120 only.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. What the honourable member says is that the figure in part (*a*) is 1100.

MR. K. K. KARTHA: 31 sluices have been opened after 1100.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Does not the opening of more sluices affect the supply of water in the lower reaches of the channel?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: It does not.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Was not an opinion expressed by the Economic Development Board that if more sluices were opened, the irrigation in the lower reaches of the channel would be affected?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The question has been examined and it has been found that it does not affect irrigation.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know the names of the applicants who asked for the sluices?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The information will be given after collecting the figures.

Irrigation system of the State.

539. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the advisability of preparing and putting through a scheme of improving the whole irrigation system of the State within the shortest period, say two years; and

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the advisability of preparing a scheme of improving the whole road system of the State within three years and putting it through; if so, with what result?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: (*a*) Yes; a ten year programme.

(*b*) Yes; a ten year programme.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Is there a report on irrigation in the records of the Government which was submitted by an expert committee?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: There is an Irrigation Committee Report with the Department.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has that report been implemented?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: It has not been done.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how far it will be of any utility to the State if an irrigation scheme is to be put through only within 10 years and not within 2 or 3 years?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: This is with regard to the major irrigation scheme of the State and nothing substantial can be done unless it is spread over a few years during which investigation could be done and execution effected.

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MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether any major irrigation scheme has been taken up as a post-war measure?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The Perunchanni work has been taken up for execution.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): കോട്ടയം താലൂക്കിലെ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ സ്കീമുകൾ എത്രത്തോളം ഫലപ്രദമായ രീതിയിൽ നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു കാണിച്ച് കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ എക്കണോമിക്സ് ഡവലപ്പുമെൻറ് ബോർഡിൽനിന്നും ഗവൺമെൻറിലേക്ക് ശുപാർശ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായിട്ടറിയാമോ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചു പറയാം. തൽക്കാലം കരുതുമില്ല.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I ask the honourable member whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the completion of minor irrigation works in the State?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: They are in progress and every year allotment is made in the Budget for executing minor irrigation works.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: My question is this: Whether there is any scheme similar to the ten-year scheme mentioned in the answer for the completion of the minior irrigation works?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: No minor irrigation works are included, in the ten-year programme. Every year some work is taken up. There is a programme for such works.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: That is not an answer to my question. I will repeat the question. Is there any scheme similar to the ten-year scheme mentioned in the answer as to when the minor irrigation works may be completed?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Minor irrigation works have not been included in the ten-year programme. They will be taken up shortly.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Has not the Head of the Administration made repeated announcements that a three year scheme for minor irrigation works would be undertaken and completed?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Minor irrigation works are being taken up every year and executed but a comprehensive scheme has been prepared. This is being investigated and more works will be taken up in due course.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am again sorry. That is not the answer to my question. Was there not an announcement made on behalf of the Government by the Head of the Administration that the three-year scheme would be taken up?

PRESIDENT: How can Mr. Kartha reply? The honourable member knows quite well what is being done. (*Laughter.*)

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MR T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : In view of the announcement made by the Head of the Administration on behalf of the Government that the minor irrigation works would be undertaken and completed within the course of 2 or 3 years, is the statement made by the honourable member correct and proper when he stated that the minor irrigation works will be undertaken year after year, probably till the end of our lives ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : Minor irrigation works are being taken up for execution. The correct information which the honourable member wants is not available at present. I shall look into the matter.

MR. P. O. THOMAS (*Kunnatnad* cum *Paiur*) : May I know which officer was responsible for the preparation of the scheme referred to in the answer to part (*b*) ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : The Chief Engineer.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know whether there is any written scheme ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : There are several schemes under this ten-year programme.

PRESIDENT : Obviously the answer is 'yes', because there is only an oral scheme. (Laughter.)

MR. P. O. THOMAS : Where can we get the information as to the exact nature of the scheme ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : The nature of the scheme will be known from a reference to the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Are the Government aware that the "grow more food campaign" and the minor irrigation schemes are closely inter-related ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : They are really inter-related.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Have the Government done anything to implement the scheme in view to the fact that the "grow more food compaign" has not succeeded till now ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : Whatever has been taken up has been done in that direction.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Is the honourable member aware that the grow more food compaign has not been successful at all in the State till now ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : It is a matter of opinion.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapalli* cum *Karthikapalli*) : From which year did this ten-year programme begin ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : It has already commenced.

MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvalla*) : When did it commence ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : From this year, 1121.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know the items already started under the road construction scheme ?

MR. K. K. KARTHA : No construction has really been commenced, but the schemes have been prepared. All the main roads of the State have been brought under the scheme.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : Shall I take it that the scheme is not for extending the roads but only for improving the existing roads ?

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. As I have already stated on the floor of this House and elsewhere the road programme of the State consists of two parts, firstly, the cement concreting of the main trunk roads in the state as early as possible and for which a sum of about one crore of rupees has been set apart. That scheme will start as soon as the cement factory is started within the State, because the present transport charges from Madukkarai from where we get our cement are such that it is not economical to start the cement concreting scheme unless a cement factory is started here. Certain negotiations had been conducted with the All India Cement Company for the purpose of enabling them to start a manufactory here, 51 per cent of the shares being held by Government. They have not finally concluded that agreement but notwithstanding it they have been pressed to do so. No steps have been taken by them so far and therefore it has been indicated to them that although Government were originally anxious to get the co-operation of the Company which has a monopoly for cement practically throughout India, on account of the urgency of the situation, this Government will commence the construction of the cement factory without any reference to the All India Cement Company unless within the next two months they decide on starting a factory here. The factory will take about eight to nine months to start working, having regard to the fact that the import of machinery will have to be made either from England or from America. Enquiries have been made both in England and in America but most probably English machinery will be installed because of the difficulty with regard to the dollar credit. We have already got credit for three million dollars, but that will be necessary for other purposes.

So far as the other roads are concerned they will not be cement-concreted, but dealt with in the normal way. There is a plan before the Government to deal with all these road schemes. The estimates are coming up and Government have already passed orders on a large number of them, and I believe work is being started on some of them.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: With regard to the statement I wish to say...

PRESIDENT: You may put questions, but you cannot make a statement now.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: But the general feeling on the country is.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That is not a question. The general feeling in the country is not a question.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: In view of the statement from the Chair I also have a right to question that statement.

PRESIDENT: No, no. Order, order. The Chair may supplement the answer given by the Government member. It was not a statement from the Chair. It was only a supplementary answer to the question which the Chair, in common with the other members of the Treasury Bench, is entitled to give. Therefore, any further questions arising out of what I said are quite allowable and the honourable member may put those questions.

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MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the honourable member, apart from the proposals to start a cement factory and other things, when actually the other roads will be taken up?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: We have a five-year programme under which these main roads will be tarred.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: I asked the honourable member when the actual work of cementing will begin. There is a general feeling that the work will not be started in the near future and that these statements from the Government are made only to bluff the people.....

PRESIDENT: No inferences and insinuations are allowed on the floor of the House. The honourable member will withdraw that statement.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: There is no insinuation in what I said.....

PRESIDENT: It is an insinuation. Will the honourable member withdraw the statement?

MR. P. O. THOMAS: But I say there is no insinuation.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will leave the House if he does not withdraw that statement.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: I will prefer to leave the House.

PRESIDENT: Unless the honourable member is willing to leave the House, he must withdraw the statement.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: I am leaving the House.

(Mr. P. O. Thomas left the House)

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know what is the beginning made?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The tarring programme will commence this year itself.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: So it has not commenced?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Orders have been placed for the required materials and the necessary quantity of tar.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Are the village roads also included or only the main roads?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The Village roads are also included.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Is tar necessary for concreting the roads?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Tar is absolutely necessary for improving them.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: You said that the ten-year programme in regard to the major roads has begun. Have you made a beginning?

PRESIDENT; One honourable member cannot address the other honourable member. The honourable member should address the Chair and can put questions to other honourable members through the Chair. He should say 'will the honourable member be pleased to say whether such and such a thing has been done?' He cannot address honourable members direct.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: In view of the statement that the ten-year programme has begun from the beginning of 1121, may I know from the honourable member how far has the progress gone in respect of major irrigation works?

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MR. K. K. KARTHA: A portion of the required materials has already been obtained. Orders have been placed for the balanced quantity.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: സർ, ഈ ഇറിഗേഷനും റോഡും തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധം എന്താണെന്ന മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

PRESIDENT: Road is in part (b). The honourable member will please look into the question.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Government are aware that the road system and the irrigation system are in a very bad condition and that the people are very dissatisfied?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The question is not audible.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether Government are aware that the road system and the irrigation system of the State are in sorrowful condition?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The question is not clear.

PRESIDENT: If it is not clear, you say you cannot answer the question.

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The question is not clear and therefore I cannot answer the question.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Knowing the position as I do, may I assure the Government.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Assurances are out of order.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Knowing as I do from facts which I have gathered while going about the country that they are in a very sorrowful condition, may I ask the Government whether they have done something to implement the promises given to us that they would improve the condition?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: A lot has been done and more will be done.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: What is the lot done?

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Our lot is nothing improved.

PRESIDENT: Theatrical demonstrations have their own place in the legislature, but not during question time.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is there any programme with the Department to extend village roads during the year 1121?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: There are a number of roads for which estimates have been prepared and on which action has been taken.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: For extension or improvement?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Both for extension as well as for improvement.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Do the estimates relate to opening of new roads also?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The scheme covers improvement of roads, extension of roads and opening of new roads.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I would advise the Department of Public Works immediately to compile a list of the works for improvement of main roads, started, done and proposed to be taken up; similarly with regard to feeder roads and village roads, pointing out

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[President]

exactly the progress that has been made from the last budget time up to now, and what is proposed to be done during the next six months. That will be prepared in the course of a fortnight and published for the information of the honourable members of the two Houses. I think the questions are quite legitimate and I must say that I share the disappointment which has been voiced by the honourable members of this House that the work of the department has not been speeded up as was expected especially in the matter of rural communications. In order that the matter may be expedited and kept prominently in view, I have directed that a complete list be prepared of what has been done after the last budget time and what is proposed to be done during the rest of the year and also what is going to be done next year. And I want the Department to remember that this disappointment which has been voiced by the Head of the Administration is a legitimate one and that the Head of the Government is really sorry that such questions should have been raised and that an occasion should have arisen for such questions to be asked.

Perumchillai Thodu.

540. *MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any estimate has been prepared for the deepening of the Perumchillai Thodu in Vaikom?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Yes.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know from the member the cost of the scheme as per the estimate that has been prepared?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: The estimate prepared under the irrigation scheme is for Rs. 11,200.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know whether this work will be included in the next year's budget?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: This is a minor irrigation work for which the consent and the statement of the ryots have not been obtained yet. The Tahsildar has been asked to get it.

Tiruvella Market Canal.

541. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any amount was spent in 1120 for widening and deepening the Tiruvella Market Canal; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that this important canal requires considerable improvement to make it navigable?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Chief Engineer visited the place or whether he received any representation about the canal?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: That is a point on which I have no information.

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